City of Barrie
Report of the Arts Advisory Committee

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 02:00 PM
For consideration by the Infrastructure and Community Investment Committee

Present:
A. Courser
C. Riepma
LA. Rodgers
I. Churchward
S. Herman

Absent:
G. Groen
T. Durbano
N. Mazhab Jafari

Staff:
Coordinator of Elections and Special Projects, T. McArthur
Cultural Development Officer, A. Dyke
Director of Recreation and Culture Services, K. Datema
Legislative Coordinator, C. Payne

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Councillor, A. Courser at 2:01 p.m.

2. PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1 Arts Groups Directory

Amanda Dyke, Cultural Development Officer, advised the Committee that the creation of an arts group directory for Barrie is a potential priority that falls under the Culture Plan Update. She noted it would be a large undertaking for the Committee alone, however the Barrie Public Library has an existing, similar resource that could assist those looking for local arts groups.

3.2 Barrie Arts and Culture App/Website

The Committee discussed the possibility of a dedicated app for arts and culture in

Barrie. Members were advised that the City of Barrie app already has an arts and culture page that could serve the same purpose. Ms. Dyke encouraged members to promote the community calendar on the City's website to local arts and culture groups where they can add their own events. The Committee also discussed utilizing existing newsletters at the City's theatres to advertise local arts and culture groups.

3.3 Culture Plan Update - Arts and Culture Investment Program Funding

Amanda Dyke, Cultural Development Officer, advised the Committee that a formal review of the Arts and Culture Investment Program will be undertaken beginning in 2026 to ensure it aligns with the Culture Plan Update.

3.4 Culture Plan Update - 10 Year Plan Priorities/Recommendations

Amanda Dyke provided a brief overview of the recommended actions and priorities resulting from the Culture Plan Update. She encouraged the Committee to review the listed recommendations, particularly those for 2026 and 2027 and provide feedback as to which ones the Committee feels could be prioritized as achievable, short-term goals.

3.5 In-Kind Tourism and Culture Event Grant - Kempenfest

Kevin Datema, Director of Recreation and Culture Services, informed the Committee of the anticipated creation of a tourism and culture event grant that would provide in-kind city services to encourage and support the facilitation of local events. In-kind services may include barricades and bollards, transportation support, and/or staffing resources for events, such as lifeguards. Staff noted the mutual benefit of providing in-kind services as opposed to direct financial support.

3.6 Committee Composition Review

The Committee discussed its current member composition and proposed amending it to allow for greater representation of arts and culture in Barrie. Members suggested earmarking a spot for a member of the Indigenous community, a theatre group representative, a music representative, a visual art representative, and a dance representative. The Committee agreed to reach out to various organizations that might be interested in membership and will continue discussions at their next meeting.

3.7 Discussion - Committee Recommendations to Council

Tara McArthur, Coordinator of Elections and Special Projects, provided a brief overview of the Committee's mandate and the procedure to advise Council and provide recommendations on matters of arts and culture in Barrie.

3.8 Burlesque By-law Review

Kevin Datema, Director of Recreation and Culture Services, provided an update on the review of the Adult Entertainment By-law and advised that no formal direction has been given to staff to amend the by-law to specifically allow for burlesque performances. The Committee noted the importance of altering the by-law and ensuring burlesque performers can operate legally within the City of Barrie.

Adult Entertainment Industry By-law Review - Burlesque Performances

That staff undertake a review of the Adult Entertainment Industry By-law and investigate an amendment to include provisions for Burlesque performances.

Approved for consideration by Infrastructure and Community Investment Committee

4. REFERRED ITEMS

Nil.

5. REPORTS/MEMORANDUMS TO COMMITTEE

Nil.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.